

AN INVESTIGATION OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING  
UNDERGRADUATES' MOTIVATION TOWARDS LEARNING  
ENGLISH IN PAKISTAN

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## **DEDICATION**


### **Almighty “Allah”**

(Who has given me strength, knowledge, patience and wisdom)

### **My “Parents”**

(Who taught me words)

### **My “Brothers,Wife and Children”**



My brothers, late Mohammad Yaqoob Siming and Akhtair Ali sheikh, my wife Raheela, my dearest son Shan-e--Ali and my loveliest daughter Mashal Fatima, whose, love and sincerity highly motivated me to finish this valuable work, I really appreciate their motivation, encouragement, patience and everlasting love.

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## ABSTRACT

Attitude and motivation have been crucial elements within the context of a learning a language. Studies have shown that motivation plays a vital role in language learning. When students are motivated, their language proficiency skills are enhanced. The students with higher level of motivation will do better than those with lower level of motivation. Thus, the present study was conducted to investigate the reasons for learning English in Pakistan particularly the most dominating types of motivation namely instrumental motivation or integrative motivation. Besides that the study investigated the most influencing factors that affect the learners' motivation. Finally, the current study has drawn a comparison between science and engineering students at research venue. A cross-sectional approach was adopted to inspect the types of motivation and most influential factors among the science and engineering students by using both quantitative and qualitative methods. The data was collected from 480 respondents at one point before the end of an English course at Quaid-e-Awam University of Engineering Science and Technology in Pakistan. For a clearer picture of the study, 18 students were interviewed to cross validate findings obtained through questionnaires. The findings of the study revealed that Pakistani science and engineering students learn English for both instrumental and integrative orientation but the instrumental orientation dominated over integrative orientation. In addition, engineering students were significantly more motivated than science students over 10 factors. 12 hypotheses were developed and tested; the findings showed that 10 hypotheses were accepted while 2 were rejected. Further, the open-ended responses revealed that the mother tongue of respondents does not play any pivotal role for learning English. Moreover, the results revealed that the Pakistani students who were engaged in student politics, their role for learning English remained as neutral or negative. The students in general were enthusiastic to learn English. The findings of the present study may be fruitful for researchers, educationist, and course designer to design strategies and syllabus that could help learners in future.

## ABSTRAK

Sikap dan motivasi adalah elemen-elemen yang penting dalam konteks pembelajaran bahasa. Kajian lepas telah menunjukkan bahawa motivasi memainkan peranan penting dalam pembelajaran bahasa. Oleh itu, kajian ini telah dijalankan untuk menyiasat sebab-sebab pembelajaran bahasa Inggeris di Pakistan terutamanya dalam mengenalpasti jenis motivasi yang paling dominan iaitu motivasi instrumental atau motivasi integratif. Selain itu, kajian ini juga mengenalpasti faktor-faktor yang paling mempengaruhi motivasi pelajar. Kajian ini juga telah membuat perbandingan antara tahap motivasi pelajar sains dan pelajar kejuruteraan. Pendekatan keratan rentas telah digunakan untuk meneliti jenis motivasi dan faktor-faktor yang paling berpengaruh dalam kalangan pelajar sains dan pelajar kejuruteraan dengan menggunakan kaedah kuantitatif dan kualitatif. Data telah dikumpulkan daripada 480 responden yang mengambil kursus Bahasa Inggeris di Universiti Sains dan Teknologi Kejuruteraan Quaid-e-Awam di Pakistan. Untuk mendapatkan gambaran yang lebih jelas, 18 pelajar telah ditemuramah untuk mengesahkan penemuan yang diperolehi melalui soal selidik. Dapatan kajian menunjukkan bahawa pelajar sains dan pelajar kejuruteraan di Pakistan mempunyai orientasi instrumental yang lebih dominan daripada orientasi integratif. Pelajar kejuruteraan ternyata lebih bermotivasi berbanding dengan pelajar sains dalam 10 faktor yang dikaji. 12 hipotesis telah dihasilkan dan diuji; dapatan menunjukkan bahawa 10 hipotesis diterima manakala 2 ditolak. Jawapan yang diperolehi daripada soalan terbuka menunjukkan bahawa bahasa ibunda responden tidak memainkan peranan yang penting dalam pembelajaran bahasa Inggeris. Keputusan menunjukkan bahawa bagi pelajar Pakistan yang terlibat dalam politik pelajar, peranan mereka dalam pembelajaran bahasa Inggeris kekal sebagai neutral atau negatif. Pelajar-pelajar pada umumnya bersemangat untuk belajar bahasa Inggeris. Dapatan kajian ini mungkin berguna bagi para penyelidik, pendidik, dan pereka kursus untuk membentuk strategi dan sukatan pelajaran yang boleh membantu para pelajar pada masa yang akan datang.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

QUEST	Quaid-e-Awam University of Engineering, Science and Technology
ELC	English language centre
EFL	English as foreign language
MANOVA	Multivariate Analysis of variance
AMTB	Attitude Motivation Test Battery
RQ	Research Question
L2	Second language
SPSS	Statistical package for social sciences
Q	Quarter
M	Milestone
ELT	English language teaching
TL	Target Language
IRI	Islamic Republic of Iran
IELTS	International English language testing system
TOEFL	Teaching of English as a foreign language
Maths	Mathematics
EL	Electrical engineering
ME	Mechanical engineering
CE	Civil Engineering
IT	Information Technology
CS	Computer Science
SALU	Shah Abdul Latif University
UTHM	Universiti Tun Hussain Onn Malaysia
PDO	Programme Development Officer
GAT	Graduate Aptitude Test
L2	Second language
ESP	English for Specific Purposes

EAP	English for Academic Purposes
N	Number
ELTR	English language Teaching Reforms
LID	learning Innovation Department
CSS	Central Superior Services
HEC	Higher education commission
ELT	English Language Teaching
UK	United kingdoms
USA	united States of America
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
CNN	Cable News Network
HBO	Home Box Office
KFC	Kentucky Fried Chicken
TESOL	Teaching of English to the speakers of other languages
TEFL	Teaching of English as foreign language
TESOL	Teaching of English as foreign language



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## THE STUDY

This thesis comprises five Chapter (see Figure 1.1). Chapter one is the introduction to the study that covers the background of study, which focuses on brief history of the role of English as well as its importance and practice in Pakistan. Then it briefly leads the readers to the Language and motivation, the role of higher education commission in promoting English learners and English faculty in Pakistan followed by the benefits to the English language learners. In addition, it discusses the profile of the target site and courses taught at research venue problem statement, research questions and subsequently ends with the objectives and scope of the present study.

Chapter two of this thesis briefly defines the various definitions of motivation including different perspectives of various schools of thoughts about motivation followed by previous frameworks and researches conducted in the area of 12 motivation in various contexts. Finally, the conceptual framework of the current study is given which serves as foundation for present study to answer the research questions developed.

Chapter three begins with the light note on cross sectional research, then the detailed report of the researcher's methodological consideration such as mixed methods, research design, and instrumentation. A research paper has been presented on this at Malaysian Technical universities Conference on Engineering and Technology (MUCET) at KSL Resort Hotel Johor Baru Malaysia in October 2015. Insaf Ali Siming , (2015). *A Study of Major Steps and Issues in Constructing Quantitative survey: A guide for researcher.*

In addition, the Procedures and reliability of the questionnaire, sampling and pilot study are discussed in Chapter three. The results of the pilot study were presented in the Second International Conference on Research Methods in Management and Social Sciences at Shinawatra International University in Bangkok, Thailand on 7th February 2015. Insaf Ali Siming, (2015) *A Pilot Study on a Cross Sectional Investigation of Science and Engineering Undergraduates' Motivation*

*towards Learning English in Pakistan*. The same is published in *Journal of Education and vocational Research*. Vol. 6, (1) pp. 61-67.

Chapter four of the thesis presents results of the quantitative and qualitative analysis based on research questions and objectives. A research paper has been published based on the initial findings in Scopus indexed *The Social Sciences* 10 (6), 718-722 (*Scopus Indexed*). Insaf, A.S., Elizabeth, M.A., *et al* (2015). *Motivation towards Learning English as Second Language among Science Undergraduates' in Pakistan: A Case Study of QUEST Pakistan*. In addition, a research paper addressing the third objective has been accepted in *Mediterranean journal of Social Sciences*. Insaf, A.S., Elizabeth, M.A., *et.al* (2016). *Motivation towards learning English: A comparative study of science and Engineering undergraduates in Pakistan*.

Finally, Chapter five of the thesis concludes the thesis with the summary of the results, motivational difference, implication of the study, contribution to knowledge and understanding, limitations and recommendations for future study.



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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of study

Pakistan is a multilingual and multicultural society. The linguistic map of Pakistan is quite complex with more than 69 languages; each of the five provinces has one or more dominant languages and a number of minority languages. However, English enjoys the status language of instruction and legacy in Pakistan. There are thousands of languages in the world. Valdes quotes Ponty who believes, "I may speak many languages but there remains one in which I live is English". One language the world is to day heavily dependent on is English and it was and is the only language that is known to the elite ruling class who performing official and state duties (Rahman, 2004).

English enjoys the status of the language of power because of its intimate association and relations with ruling elite class (Haque, 1982; Rahman, 1999) which has helped in making it a prestigious language. English is the language of domain power and prestigious in comparison with Urdu, the national language which is only spoken by 7% of the total population of Pakistan, and other regional languages of Pakistan like Sindhi which is spoken by 14 to 15%, Punjabi which is spoken by 44% of the Pakistani population, Pashto by 3%, Balochi by 4% and Sareki by only 5% (Rahman, 2004). English is the passport to run day-to-day affairs. As the official, professional and academic language of Pakistan, English is highly valued and honoured in the society for many reasons. Considering the international relations of Pakistan with other nations and the extended interest towards technology and science

throughout the world, learning English as an international language has found a greater importance in Pakistan. Since the birth of Pakistan in 1947, English is on and off taught as a compulsory subject to all undergraduates. It is not possible for students to obtain a degree without a pass in English as to fail in an English course would mean failing the entire examination.

Like everywhere in the world university education has upmost importance and considered a privilege for students who study. In Pakistan there are two kinds of universities; the professional universities like Engineering and Medical universities and General university students who passed their class examinations (matriculation and intermediate) and secure good scores in the pre-entry test for admission in universities are enrolled in professional universities like the Medical and Engineering universities. Those who obtained minimum scores in the pre-entry test are admitted into the general universities. Quaid-e-Awam University of Engineering, Science and Technology (QUEST) in Nawabshah, Pakistan is a unique university because this university offers courses for both engineering and science students which is nearly impossible to find in other universities in Pakistan. QUEST is also a newly establish institute of higher education in Pakistan.

There are two main faculties in this university Faculty of Engineering comprises of three departments Department of Civil Engineering Department of Mechanical Engineering and Department of Electrical Engineering, Faculty of Science consists of Department of Mathematics, Department of Information Technology and Department of Computer Science (Prospectus Quest, 2014). Those students who secure a good score in the entrance examination of the university are interested to join the Faculty of Engineering because engineering is considered to be an honourable profession in Pakistan. On the other hand, students who pass the entrance test with an average score are likely to enroll in Faculty of Science.

In QUEST all the subjects are taught is English and learners are expected to have sufficient knowledge of English to perform well in their academic and professional life. As such, the English Language Centre (ELC) has been established as an independent entity in the university with seven teachers and two language laboratories where practical lessons are performed to cater to the basic needs and requirements of students. The English courses taught in various departments of the university through the English Language Centre are Functional English and Communication Skills. These courses are taught in the first two semesters of the first



year of the undergraduate programme (Prospectus Quest, 2014). It involves 52 one-hour lectures over the period of one term. The assessment comprises of a three-hour paper examination. The present study is designed to be undertaken at a higher institute of learning in Pakistan for many good reasons such as the researcher has been one of the faculty members teaching at QUEST for the last eight years, this university is unique because it offers engineering and science courses, the QUEST graduates from both faculties contribute tremendously to the economy of the country and lastly, the current study is funded by Higher Education of Pakistan under a Faculty Development Program through QUEST.

## 1.2 Language and motivation

Everyone agrees that a positive attitude and high motivation towards language, its culture and people are useful in achieving a certain goal. The challenge when it comes to motivation is that it is psychological and therefore not directly observable (Dörnyei & Clément, 2001). It is very obvious from Dörnyei's statements that motivation is very hard to define as Gardner (2006) stated that "motivation is a very complex phenomenon with many facets thus; it is not possible to give a simple definition". The value of motivation for second language learning is thus pivotal and cannot be refused. Lifrieri (2005) argues that when asked the factors which influence individual levels of success in an activity such as language learning, most people would certainly mention motivation among them. Brown (2007) points out that it could be easily claimed that proper motivation is most important for successful learners especially in case of second language learning. Similarly, Gardner (2006) posits that learners who have high motivational level comparatively perform better than those who have low level motivation. He further adds that if one is motivated he/she has reasons and motives for engaging in the relevant activities, expend effort, persists in the activities, attends to the tasks, shows desire to achieve the goal and enjoys the activities.

It is strongly believed that a language may be learned for anyone or any collection of reasons (Spolsky, 1989). In reference to this, Brown asserts that studies on learners L2 motivation majorly covers difference between two types of motivation namely, instrumental verses integrative motivation. Instrumental motivation is



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